





DID I
REALLY
TIME SLIP
TO THE
MEIJI
ERA?

DOES THIS
MEAN I'M
EXISTING
HERE RIGHT
NOW?



UPON
CLOSER
LOOK...

ANYWAY,
WHO IS
SHE?



...LOOKS
EXACTLY
LIKE
MIYUKI-
SAN!

...THIS
GIRL...



YOU'RE
THE LITTLE
BROTHER OF
THE VISITING
STUDENT
FROM
HOKKAIDO.

I
KNOW!



WHAT?



OH...
YEAH...



I CAN
TELL.
YOU
LOOK
EXACTLY
LIKE HIM.



I'LL PLAY
THE LITTLE
BROTHER
PART FOR
NOW.
THERE'S NO
OTHER WAY
OUT.







REALLY?



YOU CAN
SEE THE
TWO OF
THEM
THROUGH
THIS LITTLE
HOLE.



TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH,
I'VE BEEN
WANTING
TO EAVES-
DROP ON
THEM, TOO.



OH, YES,
I DIDN'T
GET YOUR
NAME.

OR
YOUR
AGE.



YOU CAN
HEAR
THEM
HERE?
WHAT IS
THIS
ROOM?



WOW...

IT'S THE
SECRET
ROOM FOR
RECORDING
THE
CONTENTS OF
IMPORTANT
MEETINGS.



I'M
THIRTEEN,
TOO.
WE'RE
THE SAME
AGE.

I'M
FUJITA
HISAKO.



I'M
THIRTEEN.

Z.
ZAIZEN
TAKASHI.



OKAY.

COME
ON,
LET'S
HAVE A
LOOK.



SHH! BE
QUIET.

YOU'RE
RIGHT, I
CAN SEE
WELL
THROUGH
THIS.



ARE YOU
GETTING
USED TO
TOKYO?



I SEE.

COME
SEE ME IF
ANYTHING
IS HAM-
PERING
YOUR
STYLE.



I JUST
GOT HERE.
I DON'T
KNOW
DOWN
FROM UP.

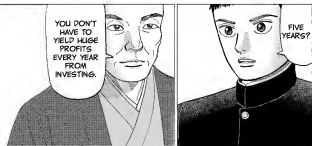


YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT THE
INVEST-
MENT
CLUB?



PLEASE
HELP ME
WITH THE
INVEST-
MENT
CLUB.

I AM
GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR
THOUGHT-
FULNESS.





IN THE
MEANTIME,
PROTECT
YOUR
ASSETS.
THAT'LL BE
GOOD
ENOUGH.

ONCE EVERY
FIVE YEARS, A
MONEY-MAKING
GENIUS APPEARS
ON THE SCENE.
IF THAT STUDENT
TAKES CENTER
STAGE AND EARNS
A HUGE PROFIT,
ALL WILL GO
WELL.



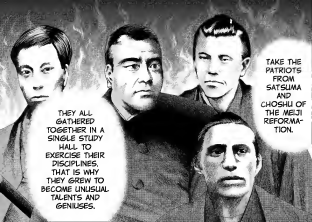
IN OTHER
WORDS, IT'LL
HAVE A TOTAL
OF FIVE*
MEMBERS; IT IS
ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL TO
KEEP THE
MEMBERSHIP
SMALL.

AND THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB MUST
HAVE A
MEMBER
FROM EACH
GRADE.

* Secondary schools of the time were based on a five-grade system; the current system has seven.



THE REASON
FOR THIS IS
THAT SUPERIOR
BUSINESSES
SUCCEED WHEN
OUTSTANDING
MEMBERS GATHER
TOGETHER IN
ONE CRAMPED
QUARTER.



THEY ALL
GATHERED
TOGETHER IN A
SINGLE STUDY
HALL TO
EXERCISE THEIR
DISCIPLINES.
THAT IS WHY
THEY GREW TO
BECOME UNUSUAL
TALENTS AND
GENIUSES.

TAKE THE
PATRIOTS
FROM
SATSUMA
AND
CHOSHU OF
THE MEIJI
REFORMATION.



GREAT
MATTERS ARE
DONE BY A
HANDFUL OF
PEOPLE. IT'S
THE PERPETUAL
MODE OF
SUCCESS.

IF MANY
GATHERED
IN A BROAD
ARENA, NO
SUCH THING
WOULD
HAPPEN.



LET GO OF
WORRIES
ABOUT
DOJUKU.
JUST APPLY
YOURSELF
TO YOUR
STUDIES.

I AM
GLAD
YOU SAID
THAT.



I'M
DELIGHTED
I CAN HEAR
KANESHICHI'S
ACTUAL
VOICE.



UM... SHE'S
GETTING
TOO CLOSE
FOR COM-
FORT...



HOW IS
SHE RE-
LATED TO
MIYUKI-
SAN?

WHAT'S
FUJITA
HISAKO-
SAN'S
RELATION TO
KANESHICHI?
DAUGHTER?
GRAND-
DAUGHTER?



WHAT
ABOUT?

I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO
ASK YOU
SOMETHING
UPON THIS
OCCASION.



I WANT TO
KNOW YOUR
BUSINESS
PHILOSOPHY,
AS ITS
FOUNDER.

WHY
DOES FUJITA
MERCANTILE
IMMEDIATELY
SELL THEIR
BUSINESSES AS
SOON AS THEY
GROW BIGGER
IN SCALE?



THAT'S
A VERY
GOOD
QUESTION.



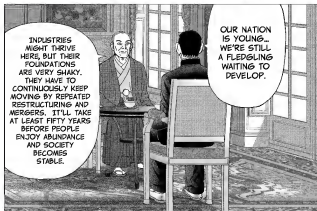
THE
REASON IS
CLEAR AND
SIMPLE.



FREE...



BECAUSE I
WANT TO
STAY FREE.



INDUSTRIES
MIGHT THRIVE
HERE, BUT THEIR
FOUNDATIONS
ARE VERY SHAKY.
THEY HAVE TO
CONTINUOUSLY KEEP
MOVING BY REPEATED
RESTRUCTURING AND
MERGERS. IT'LL TAKE
AT LEAST FIFTY YEARS
BEFORE PEOPLE
ENJOY ABUNDANCE
AND SOCIETY
BECOMES
STABLE.

OUR NATION
IS YOUNG...
WE'RE STILL
A FLEDGLING
WAITING TO
DEVELOP.



WAR...



AND OUR BIGGEST APPREHENSION IS WAR.



EVENTUALLY THERE WILL BE A CLASH OF INTERESTS, WHICH WILL LEAD US INTO A HUGE WAR. WE HAVE TO BE WELL- PREPARED FOR THAT.

IT'S ONLY BEEN FIFTY YEARS SINCE JAPAN OPENED ITS INTERNATIONAL DOORS. WE HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.



GOVERNMENT POLICIES WILL BIND BUSINESSES. OUR ACTIVITIES WILL HAVE BOUNDARIES SET.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THERE WILL BE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.



BUT GRASPING MILITARY DEMANDS AS OPPORTUNITIES TO RAKE IN A BUNDLE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO REJECTING OUR WILL AS BUSINESSPEOPLE.

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE DOING BUSINESS, WE WILL HAVE TO STAY CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT.



I ALWAYS
WANT TO
STAY FREE.

I DON'T
WANT TO BE
RULED BY
ANYONE.



I'VE
ESTABLISHED A
SCHOOL ON MY
OWN WITHOUT
RECEIVING A
STITCH OF AID
FROM THE
GOVERNMENT.

THAT IS WHY,
WHEN A BUSINESS
GETS IN A
GROOVE, I SELL
IT AND CONVERT
IT TO CASH,
WHICH KEEPS THE
GOVERNMENT AT
A SAFE DISTANCE
FROM ME.



I DID IT ALL
TO MAINTAIN
MY FREEDOM.



I APPRECIATE
YOUR UNDER-
STANDING.



I UNDER-
STAND WELL.

I AM
DEEPLY
IMPRESSED.



KANESHICHI!!

HE'S
AWESOME!





